

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 32, 35, 41, 44-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 32, 35 and 41, are independent claims. Claims 1, 32, 35, 41, 46, and 47 are hereby amended. Support for these amendments is provided at paragraphs [0031] to [0034] and Figs. 4(a) to 4(c) of the specification. Claims 5, 9-31, 33, 34, 36-40, 42 and 43 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejected Claims 35, 41, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants submit that the claims as amended clarify the invention as requested by the Office Action, and also satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 32, 35, 41 and 44-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,472 to Perala (hereinafter, merely "Perala") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,842 to Kirk, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Kirk") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,869 to Higashio (hereinafter, merely "Higashio").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A display control apparatus...

each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use;

wherein each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use; and

wherein said selection of content information is determined by a majority decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors and the other information selected by another cursor is displayed within an alternative window." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Perala relates to a system that is usable by at least two persons (owner and customer) in connection with an application which does not support multiple mice or multiple cursor presentations. Each person has a respective mouse and the customer is permitted to participate in the operation of the application, at least to the extent of being able to point to objects on the screen by means of a cursor.

As understood by Applicants, Kirk relates to a system and method for providing shared access to a three-dimensional virtual environment synchronously with hypertext browsing. A cospace server receives a request from a client, tracks the requests, and stores components of the requested files. When a certain threshold of users has requested a file, the

cospace server constructs a three-dimensional room description and sends it to the clients that are browsing the file.

As understood by Applicants, Higashio relates to a system for an information processor that allows multi-use editing.

The claimed invention can provide a fair collaboration system to allow users to simultaneous discuss not only a content selected by a majority decision, but also the other content selected by a minority. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Perala, Kirk, or Higashio taken either alone or in combination that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically there is no teaching or suggestion of selection of content information is determined by a majority decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors and the other information selected by another cursor is displayed within an alternative window, as recited in independent claim 1.

Indeed, Kirk discloses a “group feature that group followers can collaboratively decide where to proceed next ... by voting.” See Kirk, column 11, line 14. of And also, while Higashio, indeed describes a system in which “[w]hen a priority switching menu is selected, the priority of the mouse with the current priority is switched to that of a mouse one lower level. This process is carried out only by input of a mouse having the first or second priority.” See Higashio, column 3, ll. 64-67. However, by contrast, the present invention, as claimed, allows users to simultaneously discuss not only a selected content by a majority decision, but also the other content selected by a minority. This feature as recited in claim 1 is not taught or disclosed by any combination of Perala, Kirk and Higashio. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 32, 35 and 41 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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